

board of directors comprising of community, civic and corporate leaders. This mission of the Latino Learning Center is to see that all low-income people in Houston, specifically the residents of near East End and near North Side communities, have the opportunity for education and human support services.

Since its inception, the Latino Learning Center has dutifully provided these services and has positively impacted the lives of our citizens. The Latino Learning Center's success is widely known and has resulted in more than 6,000 individuals graduating from its training programs.

The Latino Learning Center has a very interesting history. It was established as a Texas nonprofit organization. It received a donation of land and buildings in 1981–82 from the Magnolia Business Center, Inc. Since the buildings were previously used as warehouses, significant renovation was necessary in order to upgrade the facility. The Latino Learning Center's founders embarked upon an aggressive fundraising campaign to secure the initial \$150,000 necessary for the renovation process.

As the result of the boards diligence, sufficient charitable gifts from the private sector were obtained to structurally transform the building and acquire adjacent parking space. Due to generous philanthropic participation of many Houstonians, private sector support and some public sector funds, the Latino Learning Center became an established reality. In July 1984, an open house ceremony was held and classes and community services began within the year.

Over the past 20 years, the Latino Learning Center has established strong ties with the community by serving as a Multipurpose center. The Latino Learning Center is utilized by many civic organizations including LULAC, the American GI Forum, the Mexican-American Sheriff's Organization, the Union of Hispanic METRO employees, the Hispanic Organization of Postal Employees—HOPE, and many others. It is also used to conduct meetings, plan events of benefit for the community, conduct community/media press conferences, and perform special events such as dispensing food baskets for the poor during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Latino Learning Center on its 20th anniversary, and I hope they remain in our community for many years to come. I also ask that my colleagues in the House join me in expressing our appreciation for the services and the commitment of everyone associated with this wonderful center.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Federation of India Community Associations of N.E. Ohio on the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Indian

Republic. On January 26, 1950, India proclaimed itself a sovereign nation governed by its own Constitution. Republic Day is celebrated on the 26th of January each year. It is a major national holiday in India celebrating the culmination of the Indian movement toward self-government that began on August 15, 1947, with India's Declaration of Independence. FICA has celebrated this important event with an annual dinner for over thirty years. Governor Robert Taft of Ohio recognized the significance of this day by proclaiming January 26, 2000 Republic of India day for Ohio.

India is a highly diverse country with more than fourteen major languages and at least as many distinct cultures. The Federation of India Community Associations is an umbrella organization for various Asian Indian groups throughout Northeast Ohio. For the past thirty years it has published *The Lotus*, a monthly community newspaper, and organized celebrations for major Indian holidays and festivals. FICA maintains the India Community Center in Cleveland Heights and supports community service to the more needy in the area. The Asian Indian community in Greater Cleveland contributes extensively to the economic, social and cultural richness of the area. Members' work in government, education, business, medicine, science, law and social service has created strong and lasting relationships with the entire community.

My fellow colleagues, join with me in congratulating this great cultural organization, along with all the people of India and Indian descent, on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of India.

TRIBUTE TO ILSE KAHN AND  
SUHAILA NASSER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ilse Kahn and Suhaila Nasser, who this year are receiving the Lifetime Commitment to Peace Award from the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam Southern California Chapter. Ilse Kahn and Suhaila Nasser, who live in Southern California, have made their own outstanding contribution to the cause of peace and understanding in the Middle East. They embody the new spirit of reconciliation in the region.

A survivor of the Holocaust, Mrs. Kahn has worked tirelessly to bring together Arab and Jewish children in an environment of peace and friendship. She was one of the founders of the Southern California chapter of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al-Salam, the joint Palestinian/Jewish community in Israel. Mrs. Kahn has been active in the bilingual and bicultural nursery, kindergarten and primary school located in the community. Her efforts have helped a generation of Palestinian and Jewish children build strong ties and close relationships.

As busy as she is with the Southern California chapter, Mrs. Kahn somehow finds the time to be involved with other special causes, including LA's Best, an enrichment program for school age children in Watts. She is also a member of the League of Women Voters.

Suhaila Nasser, a Palestinian born in Jerusalem, immigrated to the United States in 1961. Despite living far from her native region, she has immersed herself in the task of providing medical assistance to the Palestinian people. In 1988, after undergoing a mastectomy, Mrs. Nasser formed the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to securing medical treatment for suffering children.

Thanks to Mrs. Nasser's efforts, since 1990 more than 100 children have been brought to the United States for reconstructive surgery and specialized medical services. In addition, six teams of doctors from the United States, Italy, England, and Belgium have traveled to Jerusalem and the West Bank to operate on children.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ilse Kahn and Suhaila Nasser, whose dedication to the plight of children living in the Middle East inspires us all. I salute them for their courage and commitment to a just cause.

HONORING RAY LITTLEFIELD

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pause in remembrance of a man that will be missed by everyone that knew him, Mr. Ray Littlefield.

Raymond Littlefield was born in Houston, Texas on March 8, 1929, and passed away on November 26, 1999, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mr. Littlefield served as a second lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve, past president of the North Austin Rotary Club, past president of Austin Woods and Water Club, past president of Austin Apartment Association, a member of the Association of General Contractors and a member of the American Institute of Architecture.

Mr. Littlefield moved to Pagosa Springs, Colorado in 1984. He was the founder, architect and developer of the Pine Ridge Extended Care Center. His experience and lifelong love of the Colorado Rockies and the Pagosa Springs area placed him in the unique position to recognize the need for a facility that cares for the elderly. Pine Ridge Extended Care Center became just that.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Littlefield for all that he did in order to make Pagosa Springs a better community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 1, 2000*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 2 and 3, I was unavoidably detained due to inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both bills.